

**§ 16.21 Operation of projects with a minor or minor part license not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act after expiration of a license.**

(a) A licensee of a minor or minor part project not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that has filed an application for a subsequent license or exemption may continue to operate the project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license after the minor or minor part license expires until the Commission acts on its application.

(b) If the licensee of a minor or minor part project not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act has not filed an application for a subsequent license or exemption, the Commission may issue an order requiring the licensee to continue to operate its project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the license until the Commission either acts on any applications for subsequent license timely filed by another entity or takes action pursuant to §§ 16.25 or 16.26.

**§ 16.22 Application for an exemption by a licensee with a minor or minor part license for a project not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act.**

(a) *Applicability.* This section applies to an existing licensee with a license for a project not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act.

(b) *Information requirements.* An applicant for an exemption must meet the requirements of, and will be processed in accordance with, subpart K or subpart J of part 4 of this chapter, and §§ 16.5, 16.8, 16.9(b)(2) (except the requirement to comply with §§ 4.41, 4.51, or 4.61 of this chapter), §§ 16.9(b)(3), 16.9(b)(4), 16.9(c), 16.9(d), and 16.20(c).

(c) *Standard of comparison.* If an application for subsequent license is filed in competition with an application for exemption by an existing licensee, the Commission will decide among competing applications in accordance with the standards of § 16.13 and not in accordance with the provisions of § 4.37(d)(2) of this chapter.

**Subpart F—Procedural Matters**

**§ 16.23 Failure to file timely notices of intent.**

(a) An existing licensee of a water power project with a license subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that fails to file a notice of intent pursuant to § 16.6(b) by the deadlines specified in § 16.6(c) shall be deemed to have filed a notice of intent indicating that it does not intend to file an application for new license, nonpower license, or exemption.

(b) An existing licensee of a water power project with a license not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that fails to file a notice of intent pursuant to § 16.6(b) by the deadlines specified in § 16.20(c) shall be deemed to have filed a notice of intent indicating that it does not intend to file an application for subsequent license or exemption.

**§ 16.24 Prohibitions against filing applications for new license, nonpower license, exemption, or subsequent license.**

(a) *Licenses subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act.* (1) An existing licensee with a license subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that informs the Commission that it does not intend to file an application for new license, nonpower license, or exemption for a project, as required by § 16.6, may not file an application for new license, nonpower license, or exemption for the project, either individually or in conjunction with an entity or entities that are not currently licensees of the project.

(2) An existing licensee with a license subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that fails to file an application for new license, nonpower license, or exemption for a project at least 24 months before the expiration of the existing license for the project may not file an application for new license, nonpower license, or exemption for the project, either individually or in conjunction with an entity or entities that are not currently licensees of the project.

(b) *Licenses not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act.* (1) An existing licensee with a license not

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subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that informs the Commission that it does not intend to file an application for subsequent license or exemption for a project, as required by § 16.6, may not file an application for subsequent license or exemption for the project, either individually or in conjunction with an entity or entities that are not currently licensees of the project.

(2) An existing licensee with a license not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act that fails to file an application for subsequent license or exemption for a project by the deadlines specified in § 16.20(c) may not file an application for subsequent license or exemption for the project, either individually or in conjunction with an entity or entities that are not currently licensees of the project.

### **§ 16.25 Disposition of a project for which no timely application is filed following a notice of intent to file.**

(a) If an existing licensee that indicates in the notice filed pursuant to § 16.6 that it will file an application for new license, nonpower license, subsequent license, or an exemption does not file its application individually or in conjunction with an entity or entities that are not currently licensees of the project at least 24 months before its existing license expires in the case of licenses subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act, or by the deadlines specified in § 16.20(c) in the case of licenses not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act, and no other applicant files an application within the appropriate time or all pending applications filed before the applicable filing deadline are subsequently rejected or dismissed pursuant to § 4.32 of this chapter, the Commission will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER and once in a daily or weekly newspaper published in the county or counties in which the project or any part thereof or the lands affected thereby are situated, notice soliciting applications from potential applicants other than the existing licensee.

(b) A potential applicant that files a notice of intent within 90 days from the date of the public notice issued pursuant to paragraph (a):

(1) May apply for a license under Part I of the Federal Power Act and part 4 of this chapter (except § 4.38) within 18 months of the date on which it files its notice; and

(2) Must comply with the requirements of § 16.8 and, if the project would have a total installed capacity of over 2,000 horsepower, § 16.10.

(c) The existing licensee must file a schedule for the filing of a surrender application for the project, for the approval of the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing, 90 days:

(1) After the due date established for any notice of intent issued under paragraph (a), if no notices of intent were received; or

(2) After the due date for any application filed under paragraph (b)(1), if no application has been filed.

(d) Any application for surrender must be filed according to the approved schedule, must comply with the requirements of § 16.8 and part 6 of this chapter, and must provide for disposition of any project facility.

### **§ 16.26 Disposition of a project for which no timely application is filed following a notice of intent not to file.**

(a) If an existing licensee indicates in the notice filed pursuant to § 16.6 that it will not file an application for new license, nonpower license, subsequent license, or exemption and no other applicant files an application at least 24 months before the existing license expires in the case of licenses subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act, or by the deadlines specified in § 16.20(c) in the case of licenses not subject to sections 14 and 15 of the Federal Power Act, the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing will provide the existing licensee with written notice that no timely applications for the project have been filed.

(b) The existing licensee, within 90 days from the date of the written notice provided in paragraph (a), must file a schedule for the filing of a surrender application for the project for the approval of the Director of the Office of Hydropower Licensing.

(c) Any application for surrender must be filed according to the approved